



15 November 2010

Ulster Club Championship Semi Final

Our progress to an Ulster Final continued with a hard earned victory over a gallant Burren side in sunny Casement Park. The start was delayed due to problems on the M1. The delay seemed to affect our opponents more than it did us. From the throw in we hit top gear and playing football that was breath taking in the extreme we hit the Down boys like an express train. A brilliant passing movement involving 5 players resulted in Aaron Kernan opening our account with a point from play. This was quickly cancelled out by a point from a free for Burren. This served as a wake up call and two points in a row from Oisín and one from play from Aaron Kernan gave us breathing space. At this stage we were really playing football out of the top drawer. Dominating at midfield through Johnny Hanratty and David McKenna our forwards received a plentiful supply of ball.

A great goal resulted from a great catch in the middle of the park and three passes later the ball nestled in the net with Mickey McNamee providing a clinical finish. More was to follow. Points from play from Mickey McNamee and Stephen Finnegan stretched our lead to seven points but in an isolated raid, Burren reduced the arrears with a point from a free. This score brought an immediate reply with Oisín scoring a point from a free and Tony Kernan scoring a great point from play receiving a great pass from brother Stephen. Up until this our defence had completely dominated the Burren forwards with James Morgan, Paul Kernan and Paul McKeown doing Trojan work while Paul Hearty's kick outs were first class. No team, no matter how good, could keep up the momentum and our opponents had their period of dominance and a point from play helped them steady the ship. We responded with a similar score, a well taken point from Tony Kernan. Just on the stroke of half time Burren got through for a well taken goal.

Half-Time score: Rangers 1 – 08 ; Burren 1 – 03.

The goal just before the interval gave our opponents a great boost and they came out for the second half with all guns blazing. Stout defending from Danny O Callaghan and good covering back from Francis Hanratty helped stem the tide. Kyle Carragher also played his part with a lot of unselfish running. Eventually the Down side got on the scoreboard with a point from play but this was quickly cancelled out with another score from Oisín with a point from a free. Exchanges were even for the next five minutes before the opposition scored another point from a free. At this stage the man with the whistle appeared to be getting very strict and our opponents appeared to be getting a number of easy frees, while persistent fouling of David McKenna was ignored. We cancelled out the previous score with a good point from Tony Kernan. We then entered a crucial stage of the game where Burren were awarded another couple of frees which they duly pointed. That fat was really in the fire when Declan O Hare, with strong Crossmaglen connections, buried the ball in the net to bring the sides level for the second time in the match. Indeed both sides had chances to go into the lead which they failed to avail of. The Down side had a great chance to go ahead with a free from 55 yards which drifted wide. After this let off Mickey McNamee restored our lead with a sweetly struck point. The last five

minutes were played at a hectic pace with both sides going at it hammer and tongs, but our defence held firm with every player playing their part and the final whistle bringing great relief to all concerned. Over the hour Rangers introduced substitutes, Francie Bellew, Martin Aherne, John McEntee, and Aaron Cunningham. Final Score: Rangers 1 – 11: Burren 2 – 07.

This victory leaves us in the Ulster Final where we now face Naomh Conail from Glenties on Sunday 28 November. Despite the time of year, this was a great game of football played in a sporting manner and a great credit to both sides. We must also congratulate Gareth, Tony and Seamus for having the team in such great shape.

AGM

Please note the date for this year's AGM has been changed to Wednesday 01 December.

U14 Training

Training for U14s will begin on Tuesday 16 November. Players are requested to be in the field for 7.30pm sharp. Clubrooms will be open from 7.15pm. Training will finish at 8.30pm sharp and players can be collected at 8.40pm. There will be a registration night for U14s on Tuesday 30 November in the hall. Parents and players are asked to attend. Further notice will be sent home with players.

Sympathy

It is with deep regret we learned of the death of Eoghan Og Grant, infant son of Deirdre and Raymond, and grandson of Naoise and Mary Short. To Deirdre and Raymond, Naoise, Mary, Uncles Cathal and Michael, Aunts, Mary, Eilish and entire family circle we send our deepest sympathy.

Christmas Party Nights

The Christmas Party night has been arranged for Saturday 19th December in the Rangers Hall, music by Caitlin & Applejack. There is always a demand for tickets so early booking is advisable. To reserve a table or book a place contact Feargal McMahon or any member of the committee.

Club History

The GAA are asking all clubs to update their history and send it to Croke Park where it will be archived. We are looking for personal memories stories, photographs, mementos, medals, newspaper clippings of the club over the years. Copies will be taken and the originals returned to the owner. Contact club secretary Gerard Rushe at 30861895, P.R.O. Tom McKay at 30861043 or any member of the committee.